

Exhibit No.

7

Date

1-23-2009

Bill No.

SB 119

Afternoon Committee Chair and chairpersons. I'm here today to support (SB 119). As all of us here know becoming disabled is non-discriminatory. So before this committee makes its final decision determine whether or not ^{to pass or not} if ^{would} were you on this side of the podium pleading or advocating for this benefit because you have a disability ~~in~~ this bill ~~would~~ benefit your independence, your desire to work, or your desire to be a contributing member in your society. I myself was a (TAB) Temporarily Abled Bodied person; However in less than a split second I was forced to experience life a different way. And now because of that change I am directly affected (or could be) ~~by~~ ^{by} the passing of this Bill. I humbly request all of your support in this possible life changing idea.

Harold J. Eyre

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To whom it concerns:

I have been on Social Security since June of 1996. At that time I had to have Medicaid as my health insurance, I was able to keep my insurance up to 6 months after having to quit my job, then I was on my own. When the 6 months was up. I then was put on Medicaid as my meds. for just 2 pills, for a month supply, cost over \$1,700.00. And I had to pay a Spend Down which I thought that's fair? I felt very grateful, till I realized that I would have a spend down that cost me half of my social security. I was grateful for it and yet I felt like my life was over, I mean how could I be that independent guy who work all through high school, had 2 jobs line up right after high school. And though my disability could have killed me and without the meds it would have, I never gave up. I knew that my life was forever changed but I knew I would work again? It maybe harder. but I would work again, I was wrong, I was so angry. They who ever that is were encouraging people with disabilities to work but if you couldn't even afford your own insurance, what choice did you have, except this thing called Medicaid who I thought was going to help me get my life back. It was anything but that, don't get me wrong, with out there help I would be dead. But a Medicaid Buy-in would not only save so many life's, But it would give so many people HOPE! Hope to be independent again. To have a reason to get out of bed, to NOT feel USELESS to give back. I can remember a case worker telling me I hope you like Oprah. I wanted to scream at her. Instead I said I would rather work even if I have crawl to work. Today with the help of the Ryan White act I was able to go to work 20 hours a week and they would cover my spend down, that was in 2000. Since then that was canceled, however I was again lucky as then came the medicare prescription plan. And today I work for non-profit organization for the disable. Maybe I can only work part-time and yes I can only make so much money, But you know what I am out there, I am helping people, I am Independent, and yes I my life isn't the same but I have one. I am grateful for this great Country of Ours and I don't have the perfect solution, but I can tell you this I am thankful every day for being alive and for being able to be able to contribute as a CITIZEN to United States of America.

Sincerely, Lance William Wrzesinski
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